

Erap lawyer takes the stand

Prosecutor says defense running out of witnesses

By Nelson F. Flores

IS THE ESTRADA camp running out of witnesses?

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio thinks so.

Raymond Fortun, a member of the defense panel for ousted President Estrada in the plunder trial, testified yesterday as part of the defense strategy to "save the day because they do not have any witness available," according to Villa-Ignacio.

Villa-Ignacio said the appearance of Fortun at the Sandiganbayan was an indication that the defense panel was running out of witnesses.

"Even Fortun's testimony has no bearing since he is not a witness or a participant to the event he is testifying at," Villa-Ignacio said.

The defense panel, in previous hearings, had promised the anti-graft court to present at least two witnesses every session.

Fortun, the 34th defense witness, testified that he was a member of Estrada's team of lawyers and that part of his job was to verify the evidence presented against his client.

Fortun told the court that he verified the evidence, including the testimony by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson claiming that he delivered P130 million to Estrada in his Folk Street house in Greenhills, San Juan.

According to Fortun, he asked Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas how much would P130 million in P1,000 bills weigh and was told

that it would be about 130 kilos or about one kilo per P1 million pesos.

As to the claim of Singson that he delivered P130 million to Estrada, Fortun said that would be improbable since that would weigh about two-and-a-half-sack of rice.

Fortun, however, admitted during cross-examination that he was not present nor did he witness the delivery of money to Estrada's house.

Villa-Ignacio later clarified in court that nobody was saying, Singson included, that the money was brought in one bulk. What was clear, he added, the P130 million was delivered to the former leader's house in Greenhills in four boxes.

Defense lawyer Jose Flaminiano, however, lashed back at Villa-Ignacio.

"Ever since he (Villa-Ignacio) kept on saying we don't have any witness but we have repeatedly proven him wrong," Flaminiano said.

Flaminiano said Fortun's testimony was correct when he said that it was impossible for Charlie "Atong" Ang, Estrada's associate, to carry P130 million all by himself as alleged by Singson in his affidavit.

Estrada is facing a multi-million-peso plunder case before the Sandiganbayan for allegedly pocketing money from "jueteng" operations when he was still in office. He marked his 4th year of detention last Monday in his rest house in Tanay, Rizal.

No objection to Erap's joining ma's 100th b-day

By Nelson F. Flores

THE PHILIPPINE National Police yesterday said it had no objection to the motion of deposed President Joseph Estrada to attend the 100th birthday celebration of his mother, Mary Ejercito.

In a two-page comment to the Sandiganbayan, the PNP said it "interposes no objection" to Estrada's motion that he be allowed to attend the thanksgiving Mass for his mother on May 2 at the Manila Hotel. However, the

national police remain adamant that there would not be any side trip for the former president.

"From his place of confinement in Tanay, he shall go directly to Manila Hotel and from there shall return directly to his place of confinement without delay or any side trip or deviation so as not to compromise his safety and security," the PNP stressed.

The PNP also reminded Estrada that he should strictly comply with the scheduled duration of the visit from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Loren laments execution of NPA captives

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER Senator Loren Legarda yesterday lamented the reported execution of Marine Sgt. Jeremias Rosete and three other civilians by the New People's Army for conducting "espionage against the people and the revolutionary forces."

Legarda led efforts to seek the release of Rosete, Herminia Sorongan, Pepito Simbulan and Wilfredo Madecir when she was still a senator. The four were seized by the NPA on Sept. 4, 2001 in Barangay Datal Blao in Koronadal.

The Mindanao Commission of the Communist Party of the Philippines said the four were meted out with maximum penalty of death on Sept. 6, 2002 by the Valentin Palamnine Command of Far South Region.

The CPP said the sentence was carried out after a thorough investigation and trial by its regional trial court.

The Valentin Palamnine Command reportedly led the families of the four to where their remains were buried in the isolated village of Columbio in Mindanao.

"The remains have yet to be identified but, just the same, I grieve for the victims and their families," Legarda said.

The CPP said that Rosete and his cohorts had long been active in their counter-revolutionary activities, thereby inflicting damage to the revolutionary movement.

Legarda urged the government to extend full financial support to the families of the victims.

She said there was a need to make representations with the CPP leadership to find out what has happened to the child of Sorongan, the only woman captive, who reportedly gave birth while in captivity.

In 2002, Bishop Dismaldo Gutierrez of the Diocese of Marbel reported that Sorongan had given birth.

Capalla not seeking 2nd CBCP term

By Christine V. Segura

MANILA — The 2003 election results showed that the Philippine Council on Higher Education (CHED) is not seeking a second term in the 2007 election, according to its president, Dr. Jose Capalla.

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4 big airlines sign up for Naia 3 space

By Mike Flores

Four major airlines have signed up for the third phase of the Manila International Airport (Naia 3) expansion project, according to the airport authority.

The airlines are Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific, AirAsia, and the newly formed Skyline Airlines. They will be the first to use the new terminal building.

St. Luke's Medical Center

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THE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2003

Page 1

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

The Supreme Court has issued a decision on the doctrine of stare decisis, which is the principle that the law should remain consistent over time.



Hu Jintao, Chinese president, and Benigno Aquino III, president of the Philippines, signed a joint declaration on the opening of bilateral talks between the two leaders in Manila.

Benigno Aquino III and his wife Corason Aquino.

Hu heralds dawn of RP-China 'golden age'

By Philip de Los Angeles

MANILA (Inquirer) — President Benigno Aquino III, Chinese President Hu Jintao and Philippine Vice President Noli de la Rosa signed a joint declaration on the opening of bilateral talks between the two leaders in Manila.

The declaration, signed in Manila, heralds the dawn of a "golden age" of bilateral relations between the Philippines and China, Aquino said.

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Oops, Guingona still needs to get formal confirmation

By John L. Lapina

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China, RP sign investments worth \$1.6B

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Ex-AFP chief faces graft raps



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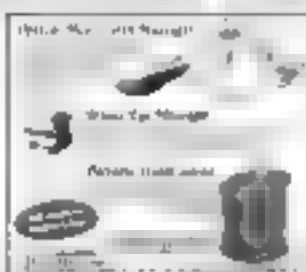
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20 US military advisers arrive in Sulu

MANILA, April 24 (AP) — Twenty US military advisers arrived in Sulu province on Monday to assist in the fight against the Islamic militant group Abu Sayyaf.

The advisers, who are part of a US military advisory team, will be based in Zamboanga City and will provide training and support to the Philippine military.

The arrival of the advisers comes as the Philippine military has been fighting a series of battles against Abu Sayyaf in Sulu province.



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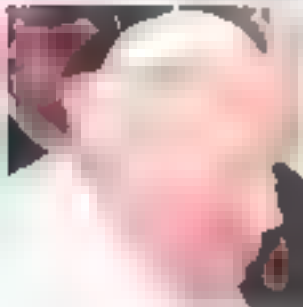
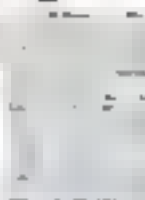
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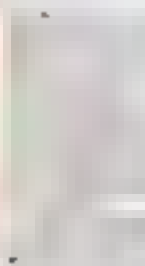
Israelis stage protest vs Gaza pullout

NETS - **1,000** Israelis staged a protest in Jerusalem today against the Israeli government's plan to pull out of Gaza.



AP Wirephoto

Iraqi premier finally unveils Cabinet list



Many Catholics not ready to let go of Pope John Paul



World terror attacks tripled in 2004, says US



NEW RECORD

British explorers beat Peary, reach North Pole in 37 days



The 14 men and women who made up the expedition that reached the North Pole in 37 days, beating the record set by Robert Peary in 1909.



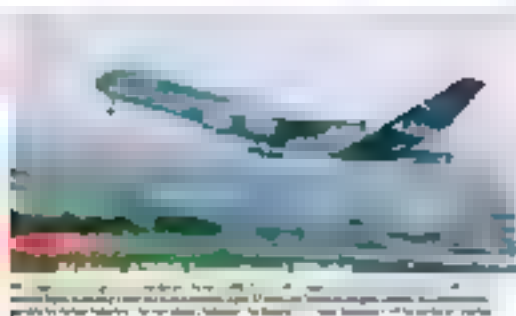
Three top executives of the state-owned oil giant, PSC and PSC, relatives of a top government official, allegedly stole millions of manily parking money. Your presence?

And in the 2000 election, the state-owned oil giant, PSC and PSC, relatives of a top government official, allegedly stole millions of manily parking money. Your presence?

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UN to verify Syria's pullout from Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 12 (AP) — The United Nations Security Council has agreed to a resolution that calls for the Syrian Arab Republic to withdraw its troops from Lebanon. The resolution, which was adopted by a vote of 14 to 0, with the United States abstaining, demands that Syria pull out its forces from Lebanon by the end of the month. The council also called for the Syrian government to allow the United Nations to verify the withdrawal of its troops. The resolution was a response to a report from the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) that Syria had been using its troops in Lebanon to support the Lebanese government against the opposition. The report also stated that Syria had been using its troops to control the border between Lebanon and Syria. The United States, which has long been a vocal critic of Syria's involvement in Lebanon, welcomed the resolution. It said that the resolution was a "significant step" towards the resolution of the conflict in Lebanon. The United States also said that it would continue to work with the United Nations to ensure that Syria complies with the resolution. Syria, on the other hand, has rejected the resolution. It said that the resolution was "unjust" and "unfair" and that it would not comply with it. Syria also said that it had the right to maintain its troops in Lebanon to support the Lebanese government. The conflict in Lebanon has been ongoing for decades. It began in 1975 when the Lebanese civil war broke out. Syria entered the war in 1976 and has since been a major player in the conflict. The conflict has caused the deaths of tens of thousands of people and has displaced millions more. The United Nations has been trying to mediate the conflict for many years, but it has been unable to reach a lasting agreement. The resolution passed by the Security Council is seen as a new chapter in the UN's efforts to resolve the conflict in Lebanon.



S delays take of N. Korea nuclear talks

SEOUL, Sept. 12 (AP) — North Korea's delay in responding to a South Korean offer to resume nuclear talks has frustrated South Korean officials. The South Korean government had offered to resume talks with North Korea on the issue of nuclear disarmament. The offer was made in a letter from the South Korean foreign minister to the North Korean foreign minister. The letter said that the South Korean government was willing to resume talks at any time. However, the North Korean government has not yet responded to the offer. This has led to frustration among South Korean officials, who want to see the talks resumed as soon as possible. The issue of nuclear disarmament has been a major point of contention between North and South Korea for many years. North Korea has a large nuclear arsenal, while South Korea is a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and has no nuclear weapons. The two countries have been in a state of tension since the Korean War ended in 1953. The war was a stalemate, and the two countries have since been divided into two separate states. The issue of nuclear disarmament is seen as a key to achieving peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.



40 dead in Sri Lanka's train, bus collision

COLOMBO, Sept. 12 (AP) — At least 40 people were killed and more than 100 injured in a collision between a train and a bus in Sri Lanka. The accident occurred on a busy road near the capital, Colombo. A large bus was struck by a train as it was crossing the tracks. The bus was carrying passengers, and the train was also carrying passengers. The collision was a major disaster, and the death toll is expected to rise as more bodies are identified. The Sri Lankan government has launched an investigation into the accident. It wants to determine the cause of the collision and prevent such accidents from happening again. The accident has also raised concerns about the safety of the railway system in Sri Lanka. The railway system is old and in need of modernization. The government has promised to invest in the railway system and improve its safety. The accident is a tragic reminder of the need for better infrastructure and safety measures in developing countries.

P2

OPINION

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Children play with a large, dark, triangular object in a park.

Safe?

I have been thinking about the safety of the children in the park. It is a beautiful park with many trees and flowers. But I am worried about the children who are playing there. They are so young and so vulnerable. I hope the park is safe for them.

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Less-traveled highways



Miracle



A pipe to love and fear

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Palace needs to use persuasion to the hilt

Pauline
Thorn

A columnist



My worst year

Young Blood

Ein paper is Deutschland

Malcolm
Rae



Wages and madness

A reader's reminder

Timothy Wynn



INQUIRER

Village hosts power amid its darkness

By Peter Lee

I

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES M. HARRIS



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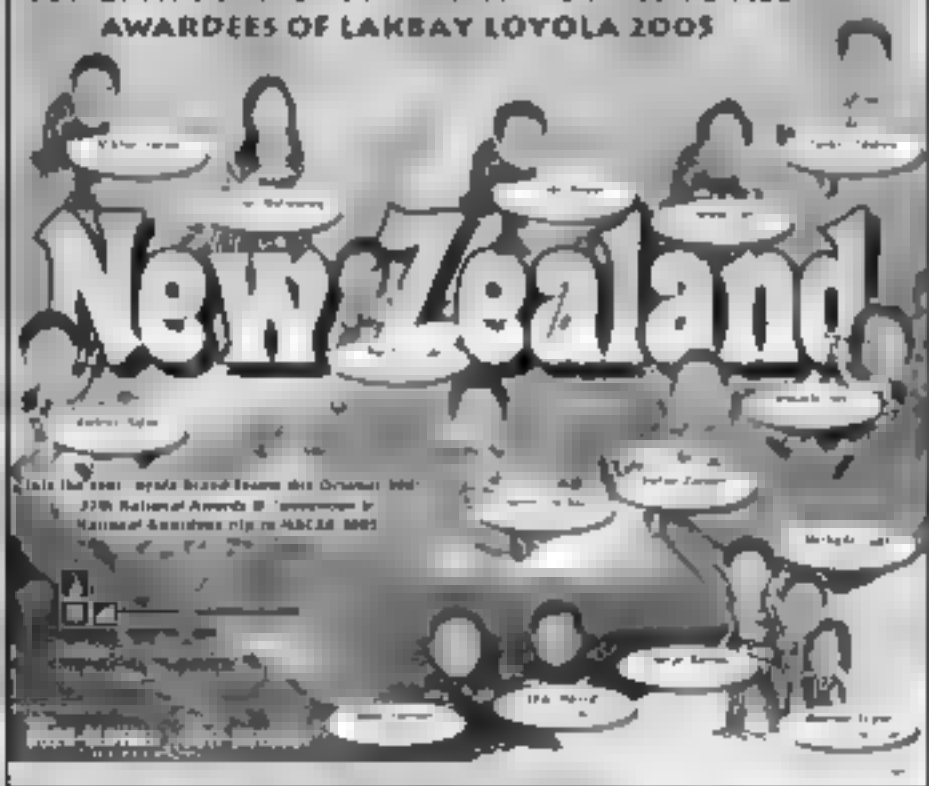
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**CONGRATULATIONS AND BON VOYAGE TO ALL
AWARDEES OF LAKBAY LOYOLA 2005**



New drive targets C. Luzon 'jueteng'

Anti-jueting campaign. The anti-jueting drive is part of the anti-corruption drive of the administration. It is a part of the anti-corruption drive of the administration. It is a part of the anti-corruption drive of the administration.

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PHOTO BY JIMMY L. LACOR. A large hole in the wall of a building in Pangasinana, showing the aftermath of a disaster.

GMA asked to break silence on killings of leftist activists

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has asked the GMA network to break its silence on the killings of leftist activists. The CHR is asking the GMA network to break its silence on the killings of leftist activists. The CHR is asking the GMA network to break its silence on the killings of leftist activists.

2 Pangasinana cities celebrate bounty of the sea



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Carbon monoxide fumes kill 2 Cotabato runners

Two runners died from carbon monoxide fumes during a race in Cotabato. The runners died from carbon monoxide fumes during a race in Cotabato. The runners died from carbon monoxide fumes during a race in Cotabato.

FLORIAN LACOR CASE

Napocor ordered to pay P22M to landowners. The Napocor is ordered to pay P22M to landowners. The Napocor is ordered to pay P22M to landowners.

Napocor ordered to pay P22M to landowners

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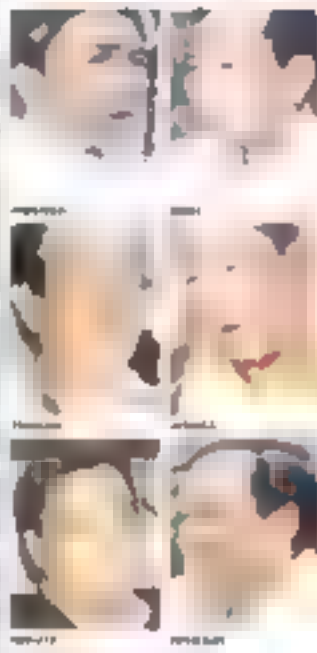
METRO

PRESIDENTIAL ENDORSEMENT

MMDA chair doing a good job—GMA

By Alvin C. Tan, Jr. and Benigno S. Aquino III

MANILA, Philippines—The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is doing a good job, according to the GMA network. The network's president, GMA President and Chairman of the Board, Benigno S. Aquino III, said that the MMDA is doing a good job in managing the Metro Manila Expressway (NLEX) and the Metro Manila Skyway (M3).



Benigno S. Aquino III, President of GMA, is seen in four different photos: top left, top right, bottom left, and bottom right.

Mactan battle marked with Lapu-Lapu's return to park

MANILA, Philippines—The battle for Mactan Island, which began in 1986, is marked by the return of Lapu-Lapu to the park. The battle was a significant event in the history of the Philippines, and the return of Lapu-Lapu to the park is a symbol of the end of the conflict.

Mantolupa seeks bail to projects in MBP area

MANILA, Philippines—Mantolupa is seeking bail to projects in the MBP area. The projects are part of a larger development plan for the area, and the bail is a necessary step to ensure the projects can proceed.

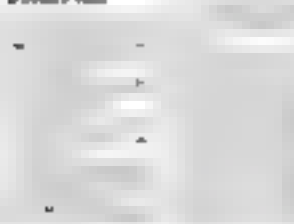
5 robbery suspects slain in QC; grenade rocks Muntinlupa

MANILA, Philippines—Five robbery suspects were slain in Quezon City (QC), and a grenade was thrown in Muntinlupa. The incidents are part of a series of violent crimes that have been reported in the area. The police are currently investigating the cases and have issued a warning to the public to stay alert.

1-YEAR OLD BOY'S KIDNAPPING

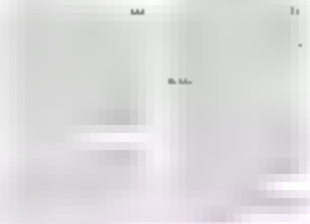
Roldan 'friend' charged

By Gerald D. Torres



Ciara's death spurs health awareness

By John J. ...



Train drags, kills man in Pao railway mishap



Easy collection to be launched



... ..



M Hael Pilar statue unveiled in Manila

By ...



Jacob needs help



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New Mourning dawns as Heat take 2-0 edge


[illegible][illegible]

TABLE 1. *Continued*

Alenza eyes lifting MYG to next level

© 2000 John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Figure 1 illustrates the experimental setup. A participant is seated at a table, looking at a screen. On the screen, there is a starting point (a large circle) and a target (a small circle). The distance between the starting point and the target is labeled 'D'. The participant's hand is positioned at the starting point. The target is at a distance 'D' away. The participant's hand is positioned at the starting point, and the target is at a distance 'D' away. The participant's hand is positioned at the starting point, and the target is at a distance 'D' away.

Free advertisements and sub tickets

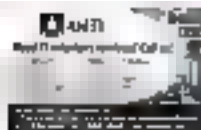


Sit. **1** **1** **1** **1**
 Today
 1.1.1.1.1
 set today

RP golf may lose Murakami for SEA Games

Figure 1 displays a 3x3 grid of images showing the degradation of a handwritten digit '4'. The images are labeled as follows:

- (a) Original image
- (b) Image with noise (0.05)
- (c) Image with noise (0.1)
- (d) Image with noise (0.2)
- (e) Image with noise (0.3)
- (f) Image with noise (0.4)
- (g) Image with noise (0.5)
- (h) Image with noise (0.6)
- (i) Image with noise (0.7)



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



Plan holders file class suit vs CAP



Table with 4 columns: Date, Open, High, Low, Close. The table contains data for the period from 10/1 to 10/10.

Date	Open	High	Low	Close
10/1	100	105	95	102
10/2	105	110	100	108
10/3	110	115	105	112
10/4	115	120	110	118
10/5	120	125	115	122
10/6	125	130	120	128
10/7	130	135	125	132
10/8	135	140	130	138
10/9	140	145	135	142
10/10	145	150	140	148

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10/5	120	125	115	122
10/6	125	130	120	128
10/7	130	135	125	132
10/8	135	140	130	138
10/9	140	145	135	142
10/10	145	150	140	148



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THURSDAY,
APRIL 28, 2005

BUSINESS

B3

Gov't debt hit P4.01T as of end-January

By Michelle V. Herna

UNABATED borrowings to close the budget gap pushed the national government debt to P4.01 trillion as of January this year, 5.1 percent more than the P3.81 trillion recorded at the end of last year.

This means that each of the 84 million Filipinos has an estimated share of P47,000 in the national government's liabilities.

The national debt refers to the accumulated borrowings that the government incurred over the years to finance the budget deficit.

The Philippines has been in a deficit since the late 1990s as revenues were not enough to cover expenditures.

According to data from the Department of Finance, P2.04 trillion of the total debt came from domestic sources, while the remaining P1.97 trillion was secured from abroad.

The government usually borrows locally through the regular auction of Treasury bills and bonds, while foreign debt comes from flotation of sovereign bonds in the international credit market, and official development assistance from multilateral and bilateral lending agencies.

The DOF said the foreign debt level as of end-January was higher by P158.3 billion, or 8.7 percent, than the end-2004 level.

The growth, however, was slower than expected due to the strengthening of the peso and other currencies against the US dollar.

The increase in foreign debt was mainly due to the government's absorption of Napocor debts.

On the other hand, domestic debt was 1.8 percent or P2 billion higher than last year.

The DOF said that of the total debt as of January, 15.5 percent were composed of short-term loans, 26.1 percent were medium-term, and 58.4 percent were long-term liabilities.

The latest debt figure does not include the national government's contingent liabilities, which are composed of guarantees to borrowings made by state-owned firms.

The DOF said contingent liabilities as of January declined to P619 billion from P632.7 billion as of end-2004.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said the profile of the country's debts, most of which have long-term maturities, places the government at a comfortable level and still far from a much-feared fiscal crisis.

The DOF said it has adopted the policy of "opportunistic borrowing," which favors loans with long-term maturities over short and medium-term loans.

Purisima said the DOF also preferred to borrow locally, rather than get loans from abroad to avoid foreign-exchange risk.



PURISIMA

The DOF said that in case it has to borrow from foreign sources, it would prefer ODAs over commercial loans because the former carry a lower interest rate.

7 nations drop opposition to QRs on rice

By Christine A. Gayican

GOVERNMENT negotiators have convinced seven countries to drop their opposition to the country's plan to keep quantitative restrictions on rice imports, the Department of Agriculture said yesterday.

DA Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano said in an interview that negotiators, led by National Food Authority Administrator Gregorio Tan Jr., have convinced China, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Egypt, India and Pakistan to allow the Philippines to maintain the restrictions.

This leaves only the United States and Thailand on the list of member-countries of the World Trade Organization opposed to the Philippines' plan.

Serrano said the negotiators were scheduled to meet with representatives of the two countries in May to convince them to support the QRs.

Sources said the US might consider supporting the Philippines on its request on QRs in return for concessions on corn imports, while Thailand might ask for larger allocations for rice imports.

"We are preparing to make our counter offers with US and Thailand in the coming weeks. We are determined to beat the deadline by June," Serrano noted.

By maintaining quantitative restrictions, or QRs, on rice imports, the government will be able to limit the country's annual rice import volume.

Lifting the QRs, on the other hand, would open the floodgates for rice, provided importers paid the required tariffs.

To keep its QRs, the Philippines has acceded to certain demands of WTO member-countries.

The country, for instance, provided China with a country specific quota of 25,000 metric tons of rice a year.

China is one of the traditional sources of rice imports for the country. The other two are Vietnam and Thailand.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said in a separate interview that the Philippine negotiating team was considering an increase in the rice minimum access volume (MAV) allocation as a concession.

"We may consider increasing the MAV allocation, but we can't just fix it as a percentage of national consumption," Yap said.

The Philippines has a national daily rice consumption of 28,000 metric tons (MT) or 10.22 million MT a year. Negotiating countries were reported earlier to ask for doubling of the MAV from the present 240,000 MT.

For Content, e-mail us at bug@philippines.com.ph

LIFE STYLE

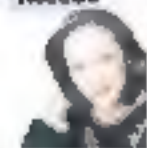
SBD queen answers FAQs

RISE and shine! God is good and it's a beautiful day!

Though I can rock "rise," I never really rock cooking this so musical as Margaret. So, if there's anyone to ask, there's the personal, the South Beach Diet (SBD) queen, chef Margarita Fores, answers your questions and shares her secrets for winning the battle with the bulge.

How do you make SBD work for you?

KITCHEN RESCUE



Margarita Fores

• Even if you're a vegetarian, you can still lose weight. Margarita Fores' South Beach Diet (SBD) is a low-carb, high-protein diet that focuses on healthy fats, lean proteins, and complex carbohydrates. It's a diet that's been proven to be effective for weight loss.

• Add some form of medium to high intensity exercise. A short walk, taking the stairs instead of the elevator, doing up a flight of stairs, or a good old-fashioned run will help you burn more calories and lose weight.

• Always take a multivitamin to ensure that you're getting all the vitamins and minerals you need.

• Always do some form of resistance training if you are not used to exercising. The body's natural tendency is to lose muscle mass. High weight training, using free weights or bands, yoga and Pilates are good options.

• Choose movement that is more compatible with South Beach Diet.

How should a diet purveyor/religion leader look?

It's not how you'll be happy with her answers... We're the healthiest diet, believe it or not!

• Water: plenty of water

• Fat: no cholesterol, no trans fats, no saturated fats

• Low protein: low to mid range, not too high

• High fat: no more than 30% of total calories

• No carbohydrates: no grains, no fruits, no vegetables

• No alcohol: no wine, no beer, no spirits

• No sugar: no candy, no soda, no dessert

• No salt: no processed foods, no fast food

• No caffeine: no coffee, no tea, no energy drinks

• No dairy: no milk, no cheese, no yogurt

• No eggs: no omelets, no fried eggs, no scrambled eggs

• No meat: no beef, no pork, no chicken, no fish

• No nuts: no almonds, no walnuts, no pecans

• No seeds: no flaxseed, no chia seed, no hemp seed

• No oils: no olive oil, no coconut oil, no avocado oil

• No vinegar: no balsamic vinegar, no apple cider vinegar

• No honey: no honey, no maple syrup, no agave nectar

• No sugar substitutes: no aspartame, no saccharin, no sucralose

• No artificial sweeteners: no Splenda, no Stevia, no Sweetener

• No artificial flavors: no artificial vanilla, no artificial strawberry

• No artificial colors: no artificial red, no artificial blue, no artificial yellow

• No artificial preservatives: no BHA, no BHT, no BHA/BHT

• No artificial additives: no MSG, no yeast, no enzymes

• No artificial ingredients: no artificial anything

• No artificial anything: no artificial anything

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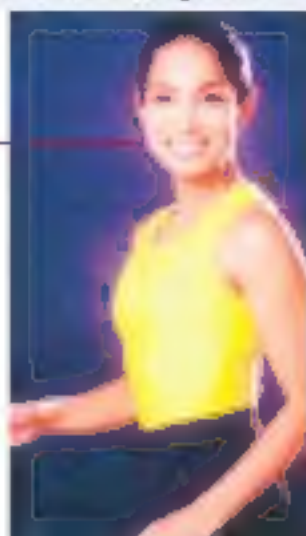
• No artificial anything: no artificial anything

Margarita Fores

shares her secrets

for winning the battle

with the bulge





CMTYRQ Cream, Swiss Cheese Puffball-Crusted Biscuits



BUTTERBREADS



PORK Tenderloin with Herbs



Meatballs in Tomato and Onion Sauce (Serves 4)



Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Fried Potatoes (Serves 4)

The classics reinvented

Get to the 7 Top 100 Restaurants in the South

After one year in the restaurant world, the South is a place where the classics are being reinvented. From the comfort of a home-style kitchen to the excitement of a high-end restaurant, chefs are taking the South by storm. The South is a place where the classics are being reinvented. From the comfort of a home-style kitchen to the excitement of a high-end restaurant, chefs are taking the South by storm. The South is a place where the classics are being reinvented. From the comfort of a home-style kitchen to the excitement of a high-end restaurant, chefs are taking the South by storm.



- Butter
- Meatballs
- Popular
- Meatballs
- Meatballs
- Meatballs
- Meatballs
- Meatballs



Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Fried Potatoes (Serves 4)

Editor's note: The South is a place where the classics are being reinvented. From the comfort of a home-style kitchen to the excitement of a high-end restaurant, chefs are taking the South by storm. The South is a place where the classics are being reinvented. From the comfort of a home-style kitchen to the excitement of a high-end restaurant, chefs are taking the South by storm.

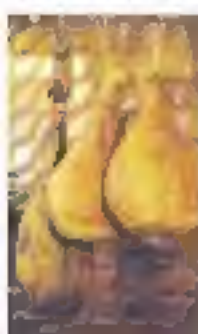


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